MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 NOVEMBER 1983

PLO Affairs

'Arafat's Future — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat rejected a request by former Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami that he leave Tripoli and subsequently stated that he will hold a dialogue with his Palestinian opponents only if they lift the siege of the city and if an Arab force is sent to northern Lebanon to guarantee the cease-fire, Beirut radio reported. 'Arafat said Arab observers or troops are needed to protect Palestinians in the Al-Baddawi camp, AFP noted. Karami's call for 'Arafat and "his brothers" to quit Tripoli, broadcast by Damascus television, was not supported by the leader of Tripoli's Islamic Unification Movement, who told Radio Monte Carlo that 'Arafat is welcome in the city. Meanwhile, a Fatah dissident spokesman at the captured Nahr al-Barid camp north of Tripoli offered to assist 'Arafat's safe passage from the city, asserting that the dissidents want to see 'Arafat leave safely, according to AFP. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi invited 'Arafat to Libya under a guarantee of safety and protection, JANA reported. However, in an exchange of messages with the Libyan leadership, broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, the Fatah Central Committee rejected "any meeting" with the Libyan leaders.

North Lebanon Military Situation — Fighting between supporters and opponents of 'Arafat erupted anew early on 14 November, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The cease-fire had been violated by intermittent clashes over the weekend, Beirut radio noted. A 12 November report by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed that over 800 Palestinian fighters have defected to 'Arafat's side, bringing 46 tanks with them. Meanwhile, at a meeting outside Tripoli, dissident leaders including Nimr Salih and Colonel Khalid al-'Amlah reviewed the military and political situation and stressed the need to abide by the cease-fire, Turbul Voice of Palestinian Revolution radio announced on 13 November.

In another development, the Kuwaiti paper *AL-QABAS* reported that 'Arafat's forces received "sophisticated" weapons from the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries over the weekend, according to QNA. The report did not say how the arms were delivered.

Dissident Views — If 'Arafat leaves Tripoli, the Fatah rebels will transfer their forces southward to face the common enemy, Israel, dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa Muragha declared in a Radio Monte Carlo interview. Asked whether he hopes to assume the PLO leadership, he disclaimed any ambition to have a political status, "for which some Palestinian leaders are now competing." Citing the London weekly *AL-MAJALLAH*, the radio subsequently reported that the dissidents have formed their own "central committee," headed by Nimr Salih and including Khalid al-'Amlah and Sa'id Musa. Mahmud al-Labadi, a dissident spokesman in Damascus, affirmed earlier in a Vienna television interview that the dissidents are against splitting the PLO.

In a lengthy roundtable discussion broadcast by Damascus television on 10 November, Nimr Salih and other dissident leaders provided further details on the motives for their uprising. Salih spoke of "defeatism" within the PLO leadership before and during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and claimed that "some" Fatah leaders had advised acceptance of the Camp David accords. He blamed 'Arafat for making the Fatah leadership agree to clause seven of the Fes summit resolutions, as the first step toward the recognition of Israel.

Syria

Khaddam-Gromyko Talks — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko stressed to his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam the "highly important and urgent" need to end strife and restore PLO unity, TASS disclosed in a report on 10-11 November talks in Moscow. Gromyko and Khaddam held a "thorough exchange of opinions" on the Lebanese situation, including developments in the Tripoli area, TASS said. Damascus radio's account of Gromyko's remarks did not mention his reference to the situation in northern Lebanon and the Syrian foreign minister did not refer to the PLO fighting in remarks in Moscow reported by the radio and TASS. Khaddam emphasized Syria's concern about possible U.S.-Israeli "aggression" against it and urged the National Dialogue Conference to seek the withdrawal of Israeli forces, Lebanese national unity, and the withdrawal of the Multinational Force, "which threatens not only Lebanon but also the entire region," TASS and the radio noted. Before leaving the USSR, Khaddam expressed gratitude for the Soviet Union's support for Syria and said the two sides had reached a "common opinion" on "all issues discussed," according to remarks broadcast by Moscow television.

The joint communique on Khaddam's visit condemned U.S. policy in the Middle East and other regions, including Central America and the Caribbean. In the communique, which was reported by TASS and Damascus television, both sides expressed satisfaction with the steady development of bilateral relations on the basis of the treaty of friendship and cooperation and reaffirmed their adherence to the obligations of the treaty. The sides reiterated the need for an overall settlement of the Palestine problem through the establishment of a Palestinian state after talks involving "all the sides concerned," including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Soviet Presence — Israel has "reliable information that the Soviets are going to leave Syria within 1 and 1/2 to 2 months," Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said in a 12 November speech reported by *MA'ARIV*. The Israeli Government is not indifferent to these reports, since past experience indicates that "something happens after the Soviets leave a place," Levi added.

In another development, the London weekly *AL-MAJALLAH* reported that a Soviet military delegation recently visited Damascus to investigate the possibility of establishing a naval base at Tartus, according to KUNA.

Lebanon

Political Developments — A visit by President Amin al-Jumayyil to Syria to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad, which was scheduled for 14 November, was canceled when Al-Asad was hospitalized for appendicitis, Beirut and Damascus radios reported. Al-Jumayyil's visit had been arranged during a telephone call he made to Al-Asad on 11 November, the radios added.

The second session of the National Dialogue Conference, scheduled to convene in Geneva on 14 November, was postponed because Al-Jumayyil would not have completed his meetings with various international leaders by the time the conference began, according to Beirut radio. Meanwhile, the conference Political Committee, which had been meeting in preparation for the conference meeting, reached a "broad consensus" on "most problems raised," including equal parliamentary representation for Muslims and Christians, naming of the prime minister by parliament, and the abolition of official sectarianism in government and the Army, AFP stated.

Military Developments — Clashes continued on 12 and 13 November around Lebanese Army positions in Suq al-Gharb after the positions were fired on from areas held by Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party militia and their allies, the Voice of Lebanon stated.

In southern Lebanon, two IDF soldiers were slightly wounded in a bomb blast east of Tyre on 14 November, an IDF spokesman cited by IDF Radio announced. Beirut radio reported that Israeli forces were preventing all traffic from moving across the Al-Awwali River bridges.

In a separate development, "security information" cited by the Voice of Lebanon reported that in Beirut's southern suburb the Islamic Amal Movement was packing an armored personnel carrier with explosives with the aim of detonating it at a French or U.S. position in the city.

Israel

Relations with Egypt — No progress was made in the talks between Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Jerusalem radio reported at the end of Kimche's visit on 10 November citing "official spokesmen" in Cairo. Kimche admitted that the two sides had "not reached results" but said they had agreed to send an Egyptian envoy to Israel to continue the dialogue, according to MENA.

Egypt-Iraq

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak discussed the Iran-Iraq war and Lebanon with Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan when the latter stopped over in Cairo on 11 November after his visits to Romania and Bulgaria, MENA reported.

Jordan

Security forces discovered and defused bombs in Amman on 10 and 12 November, according to Amman television.

YAR

Presidential decrees broadcast by San'a' radio on 12 November announced the formation of a new Cabinet under Vice President 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, replacing as prime minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, who was appointed chairman of a council to reconstruct areas hit by earthquakes. New ministers of foreign and economic affairs were listed in 'Abd al-Ghani's Cabinet.

Iran

Relations With France — In retaliation for the delivery of French Super Etendard aircraft to Iraq, Iran ordered the French commercial representation in Tehran and the French Archeological Institute closed, as well as "discriminatory" actions against French banks and products, Paris radio disclosed. The radio added that the action against French trade and interests is not complete, as trade in spare parts for French-built equipment and work on joint projects such as the thermal power station in Tabriz are continuing.

FBIS

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Karmal Addresses Army Meeting 13 November

LD140734 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, this morning took part in a national meeting of the secretaries of the primary party organization in the DRA Army. He distributed badges, medals, and extraordinary promotions to some commanders and political workers of the Army.

In a 3-and-1/2 hour comprehensive speech, Babrak Karmal conveyed good wishes from the PDPA Central Committee Politburo to the participants of the first national meeting of the Army's primary party organization secretaries. He explained his hope for their successful and fruitful work toward enhancing the role of party organizations in the life of the Army and the coordination of party members toward accomplishing the tasks set for the DRA Armed Forces.

Speaking about the grave and complicated international situation, Babrak Karmal said: The main culprit responsible for the gravity of the present international situation is U.S. imperialism. The Reagan administration is pursuing a clear role of militarist, expansionist preparedness and the principles of military superiority over the USSR. The decision of the United States to deploy Pershing II and cruise missiles in Western Europe has created a serious danger to the cause of peace. We are completely in agreement with Y. Andropov's appraisal of the present situation and with the historically important initiatives which he has put forward for the Soviet side. These initiatives are a clear witness to the undeviating peaceful policy of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Government.

Babrak Karmal added: The policy of U.S. imperialism in the Middle East, the Near East, Central America, and the Far East provides outstanding examples of this aim. The aggression against the small country of Grenada and the aggressive activities of U.S. imperialism in Lebanon are very obvious. Imperialism and regional reaction have increased pressure on Afghanistan and have expanded their interference in our internal affairs. U.S. imperialism and its Pakistani collaborators, under deceptive political cover and slogans in the defense of Islam, organize aggression against our people. Pakistan has been practically transformed into a springboard from which subversive armed actions are being provoked in various provinces of our country. There is no great pride in the fact that you true strugglers of the path of revolution and our heroic Army are every moment forced to be ready to defend the honor of the homeland and our people and to deal shattering blows against the treacherous attacks and aggression of the enemies of the revolution.

Babrak Karmal added: Despite the complexity of the situation, the patriotic forces of Afghanistan are implementing the decisions of the national conference and the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee plenums with firmness and consistency. No matter how much intimidation and savagery the enemies set in motion, the process of revolution in Afghanistan will still go forward. The counterrevolutionaries are not capable of changing the process of evolution or the progressive movement of the country. More and more the people have realized the aspirations of our revolution and given further response to the enemies of the homeland. The party and government pay permanent attention to matters relating to strengthening the defensive power of the country and the fighting readiness of the Armed Forces. We consider the military tool and work to be a constituent part of general state duties, and we appreciate them. During the current year alone, more than 6,000 Army personnel have earned the honor of receiving DRA medals and badges.

Pointing out the all-round fraternal aid of the great Soviet Union in all aspects of life to the people of our country, including great military aid, Babrak Karmal said: With the help of the Soviet Union, our Armed Forces have been equipped and maintained with all necessary means to accomplish their tasks. Its organizational level has been improved, as well as itscombat skill and the level of its technical equipping, and its firepower has been enhanced.

Babrak Karmal also said: The ?DPA Central Committee and the DRA Government, parallel to enhancing the level of responsibility and demands in the Army cadres, in the future will pay serious attention to improving the living conditions of personnel and to maintaining the rights of pension for the families of martyrs and those disabled. All these are very important issues.

President Chairs PDPA Politburo Session 9 November

LD102014 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] At the periodical session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo on 9 November, chaired by Babrak Iarmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, issues concerning the internal life of the party, security, and consolidation of state authority were discussed.

At the Politburo session, the results of the reporting sessions that had taken place in all party organizations in the country were assessed and statistical reports on the members of the party were heard and evaluated. Specific decisions were made on the broadening and formation of some party organizations.

Babrak Karmal made an all-round careful assessment of the Politburo work. He spoke in detail about the qualitiative and quantative progress of the PDPA, further consolidation of its internal unity, and enhancement of the level of the party's discipline and [word indistinct]; and preparedness and effectiveness of the members' activities and party organizations.

He explained the need for the consolidation of conscious discipline in the party and decisive struggle against any kinds of deviationist phenomena, groupings, and factionalism.

In his talk, Barbrak Karmal specified the major directions of work for broadening the leadership and directive role of the party in relation to the government affairs, economy, governmental organizations, and society.

Babrak Karmal asked the PDPA Central Committee Politburo to take serious and specific measures to prevent any disorder and lack of discipline in the party and government organs and to launch a decisive and resolute struggle against corruption, misuse, dishonor, and deviation of accepted party and government standards.

He emphasized that the party and government must fully be in the service of the people and must pay serious attention to enhancing the living standard of the toilers.

The issues raised by Babrak Karmal were unanimously approved by the members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo.

At the Politburo session, serious emphasis was placed on the satisfactory restoration of security in the country, strengthening the Armed Forces, and consolidation of government authority. Specific duties on these issues were given to the respective organs.

The Politburo also discussed issues relevant to the peaceful foreign policy of the DRA and the world situation.

Foreign Minister Leads Delegation to UN Session

LD131720 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost led a delegation today to New York to participate in UN General Assembly sessions.

At Kabul International Airport, the delegation was seen off by Commerce Minister Mohammad Khan Jalalar, Deputy Foreign Minister Sakhi Daneshjo, the deputy head of the PDPA Central Committee International Relations Department, heads of Foreign Ministry departments, Minister-Counsellor of the USSR Embassy in Kabul Aleksandr Abolov, and the head of the UN office in Kabul.

SPA Reports Soviet Tanks Destroyed by Mujahidin

24,25 October Engagements

LD102124 Riyadh SPA in English 1908 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 10, SPA — Three Soviet tanks and one armoured personnel carrier (APC) were destroyed by the Afghan mujahideen in Qandhar area in south-eastern Afghanistan during two separate engagements on October 24 and 25, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP) reported here today.

22 October Encounter

LD122147 Riyadh SPA in English 1918 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 12, SPA — A Soviet tank was destroyed and ten Russian and Afghan government troops were killed in an encounter with the mujahideen on October 22 in Ghazni town, 90 miles south-west of Kabul, AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS (AAP) reported here today.

In Gulbagh area of Kabul, an armoured personnel carrier (APC) was struck by the resistance mines, killing six Soviets on October 27, the agency said.

'Counterrevolutionaries' Reported Captured

Jowzjan Province

LD121533 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] A group of counterrevolutionary elements who were disrupting the peaceful lives of the people of Qezel Ayak village in the centre of Jowzjan Province was crushed recently by the security forces of that province. Several counterrevolutionaries, together with their ringleader Qari Zahir, were captured.

Badghis Province

LD131728 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1615 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] A group of counterrevolutionary elements who were disrupting security in the villages of Badghis Province was recently crushed by security forces and revolution defense groups. A number of them were captured.

A source from Badghis Province's security force said that 60 assorted weapons, two rocket launchers, a number of antitank mines, and 48 [word indistinct] have been seized by security forces from these criminals.

Gandhi Reportedly To Visit USSR, Ask for Missiles

BK121234 Hong Kong AFP in English 1219 GMT 12 Nov 83

[By Joel Henri]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Nov 12 (AFP) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi is due to visit the Soviet Union in April and may ask leaders there for new sophisticated weapons to match U.S. arms supplies to Pakistan, *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* reported today.

The conservative nationalist business newspaper said that Mrs Gandhi had accepted an invitation to go to the Soviet Union in April. It said she would attend the launching of the next Soyuz spacecraft carrying the first Indian astronaut, Colonel Rakesh Sharma from the Indian Air Force.

The prime minister will also discuss the deteriorating world situation, it said, and ask the Soviets for missiles, in addition to the MIG-29 already promised in June, to match the Pakistani arsenal.

Pakistan is to receive 3.2 billion U.S. dollars worth of up-to-date U.S. weapons in the next few years. In June, India ordered Soviet military hardware worth 5 billion dollars.

Soviet President Yuri Andropov has accepted an invitation to visit India next year, New Delhi officials said. Although the local press has briefly reported on his illness, informed sources said the invitation, which is addressed to the top Soviet leader, would also apply to his successor.

The joint Indo-Soviet commission is due to meet here next month, with the Soviet delegation led by Deputy Premier Yuri Arkhipov. The Soviet Union is India's leading trading partner.

Gandhi Letter Responds to 'Arafat Message

BK111722 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The prime minister has expressed distress at the continuing differences among the Palestinian freedom fighters. She is, however, confident that the unity of Palestinian movement will soon be reestablished.

In a letter to the PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, Mrs Gandhi said divisions in the ranks of a national liberation movement invariably strengthen reactionary forces. The prime minister's letter [was] sent yesterday in response to a message from Mr 'Arafat earlier this week to some prominent world leaders. Mrs Gandhi recalled that India and other nonaligned countries have consistently supported the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO.

In a separate official statement, India today called upon the opposing factions of the PLO to respect the cease-fire in northern Lebanon. It has urged that utmost restraint be excerised and every effort made to restore umity among the factions.

In Lebanon, the city of Tripoli has been relatively quiet after the shelling yesterday which broke the cease-fire.

Spokesman Cited on Pakistan's 'Provocative Step'

BK101555 Hong Kong AFP in English 1509 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 10 (AFP) — India today described as a "provocation" the decision of Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq to host a dinner in Gilgit in "Pakistan-occupied" Kashmir for foreign envoys in Islamabad.

Newspapers here today reported the Pakistan president's dinner, which he hosted Tuesday night, adding that the Indian ambassador, K. D. Sharma declined the invitation.

The foreign ministry spokesman said here today that President Zia's decision, like the earlier one to nominate observers from the contested areas of Kashmir to the "Majlis-i-Shoora" (Pakistan Assembly) was "not conducive" to the improvement of relations between the two countries.

As is well known, the spokesman said, the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir including the areas "illegally occupied" by Pakistan was an integral part of India.

Both India and Pakistan have in the past accused each other of occupying parts of Kashmir.

Asked whether India proposed to lodge any formal protest to Pakistan against this decision, the spokesman said he could not say whether any diplomatic activity was being contemplated in this regard.

When a reporter wanted the term "provocation" to be elaborated, he said, "it means a deliberate provocative step."

'Gang of Pakistan Espionage, Smugglers' Arrested

BK121641 Hong Kong AFP in English 1630 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 12 (AFP) — The police in Indian Kashmir today claimed that they have busted a gang of "Pakistan espionage" and smugglers operating in the border district of Poonch, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

Three active members of the gang were arrested while they were crossing the actual line of control yesterday, PTI said quoting police.

A police party with Mirza Hameed Iqbal, superintendent of Police, laid an ambush at Panjal border village, nabbed the three people and recovered a 0.38b revolver, 6,000 rupees in Pakistan currency and some documents from their possession.

The arrested people are being sent to Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir, a state claimed by both India and Pakistan, for interrogation and further investigation, PTI quoted police sources as saying.

The agency gave no other details.

AFP: Pakistani Troops Active Along Border

OW131815 Hong Kong AFP in English 1800 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 13 (AFP) — An Indian newspaper reported today that Pakistani troops were active along the 750 km (470 miles) "actual control line" in disputed Kashmir state and appeared to be preparing for a "fresh bid to grab the rest" of the Indian held state.

THE HINDU newspaper in a dispatch from Srinagar, summer capital of the state, said Pakistani air and ground forces were engaged in "extraordinary war exercises, constructing new bunkers and digging trenches" across the control line.

The newspaper's report followed the recent statements of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi that Pakistan might launch a fresh attack on India.

The report said almost all 10,000 villages on the Pakistani side of the control line were deserted as all their residents had been evacuated.

It also said the Pakistanis had laid a network of strategic roads in their part of Kashmir.

The report cited a series of bomb blasts in Indian Kashmir in recent months, suggesting that they were indications of alleged efforts to create confusion in the state or the impression of a popular revolt against India.

It said police had arrested three men who allegedly belonged to a gang of "Pakistan espionage" and smugglers operating in the border district of Poonch. They were identified as Mohammed Rafiq, Mohammed Sadiq and Mohammed Azam, and according to the police, they were all Pakistanis.

The three were arrested while they were crossing the actual line of control Friday.

Rajiv Gandhi: Pakistan Giving Arms to Sikhs

BK121629 Hong Kong AFP in English 1157 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] [No dateline as received] Pakistan is giving arms to Sikh terrorists across the border to fan trouble in the sensitive Indian state, Rajiv Gandhi, general secretary of the ruling Congress (I) Party said today.

Mr Gandhi, the son of Premier Indira Gandhi, told a seminar here, "We know there are training camps in Pakistan for terrorists from Punjab."

The seminar on the theme "Unity, Stability and Development" is organised by the All Indian Congress Committee — the highest body of the ruling party.

Mr Gandhi said there were training camps for Sikh militants in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir too.

Prime Minister Makes 24-Hour Visit to Assam

'Stringent Security'

BK111156 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 11 Nov 83

[By Govindan Unny]

[Text] Guahati, India, Nov 11 [AFP] — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi flew in here today at the start of a 24-hour visit amid stringent police security measures to prevent possible violence by activists of Assam's anti-immigrant movement. An Assam Government spokesman said over 100 activists of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) had been arrested during the last three days as a precautionary measure. They did not include any of the top leaders of the movement although some second-ranking AASU and AAGSP office-bearers were taken into custody.

Leaders of the AASU and AAGSP have called for a 28-hour road and rail blockade to coincide with Mrs. Gandhi's visit here. The blockade is to begin with a three-hour black-out this evening from 1800 hours local (1230 GMT).

Gauhati Airport, where Mrs. Gandhi landed half-an-hour behind schedule, was ringed by armed policemen and units of the Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police.

Only Assam State's Chief Minister Hiteshwar Saikia, his cabinet colleagues and security officials were allowed near the aircraft. The reception ceremony was brief.

From the airport Mrs. Gandhi flew by helicopter to Goalpara about 100 km (60 miles) to the east where she was to lay the foundation stone for a third road and rail bridge across the Brahmaputra river. She was returning to Gauhati, capital of the troubled northeastern state of Assam, later in the evening.

Police sources confirmed that one person was killed and about 20 others were injured, four of them seriously, in three bomb explosions in various parts of the city last night.

In separate statements issued here last night, the anti-immigrant movement leaders called on the people to make the blockade a success.

Essential services like hospitals, milk and water supply and newspaper establishments would not be affected by the blockade, they said.

The statements said the blockade was to protest the federal government's failure to solve the issue of the presence of large numbers of immigrants from neighboring Bangladesh and Nepal.

"We do not want Mrs. Gandhi to come here until she has solved the foreigners (immigrants) problem and dismissed the present illegally elected state government," AASU President Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, said in his statement. "We had suspended our agitation for some time to help restore normalcy by solving the

problem and it should not be taken as a sign of weakness," he added.

The anti-immigrant drive was marred by the massacre of some 3,500 people in February when the government held a State Assembly election against the wishes of the ethnic Assamese movement's supporters, who charged that immigrants had been allowed to vote in the poll.

This evening Mrs. Gandhi will address the northeast regional conference of Congress Party leaders who have been meeting here since yesterday. She will also speak before a mass rally at the city square tomorrow morning before returning to Delhi in the afternoon.

Bridge Ceremony Address

BK111306 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the people to sink petty differences based on language, religion, or caste and work for the unity and integrity of the country. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a meeting after laying the foundation stone of a rail-cum-road bridge across the River Brahmaputra at (Pancharatna), about 150 km from Gauhati today.

The prime minister said we should strive to build bridges over the hearts of the people of different regions. She expressed the hope that the construction of the bridge at (Pancharatna) will help the socioeconomic development of Assam and the northeastern region. She reiterated that India is keen to maintain friendly relations with neighboring countries and wanted them to develop and prosper.

Our correspondent reports that the 2 1/2 km-long bridge, the third over the Brahmaputra, when completed, will link all the districts of Assam in the north and south banks of the river. Estimated to cost over 64 crore rupees, the bridge is expected to be completed in 8 years. The project includes extension of an alternative broad-gauge railway line to Gauhati along the southern bank of the brahmaputra.

Mrs Gandhi will return to Gauhati this evening and address the northeastern regional Congress-I meeting.

Congress-I Meeting

BK111612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The Congress-I president, Mrs Gandhi, has said regional grievances should not be used for political purposes. Addressing the northeastern regional Congress-I conference at Gauhati this evening, Mrs Gandhi said without disturbing our diversity, we must strive to maintain national unity. India cannot remain isolated or unconcerned when the situation in neighboring areas is becoming grim. Only when we can stand united, we can solve problems and challenges facing the country, she reiterated.

The Congress-I president said the people of Assam and the northeastern region played a valiant role during the freedom struggle. Every effort is being made to develop the region and she is taking personal interest to achieve this goal, she added. Mrs Gandhi also cautioned the people not to succumb to the false and malicious propaganda by vested interests. She made it clear that the regional conference has nothing to do with elections.

Earlier, the prime minister laid the foundation stone of a rail-cum-road bridge on the Brahmaputra at (Pancharatna), about 150 km from Gauhati.

Assurance to People

BK120920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] The prime minister said the center is paying special attention to create more employment opportunities in the northeastern region. Addressing a meeting in Gauhati this morning, Mrs Gandhi assured the people that the government is according top priority to the implementation of developmental projects in the region. She called upon the people of Assam and other northeastern states to create a congenial atmosphere for carrying out the projects meant for the uplift of tribals, minorities, and other weaker sections.

Expressing happiness over the gradual return of normalcy in Assam and other parts of northeastern region, Mrs Gandhi pointed out that many of the development projects could not be implemented because of the disturbed situation during the recent years. Mrs Gandhi regretted that a suggestion for the constitution of tribunals for detecting foreigners was not accepted by the Assam agitation leaders and some opposition parties. She said much work could have been done if only her suggestion had been accepted. The delay in detection of foreigners has harmed the people of Assam and even the image of the country has been tarnished.

About infiltration from Bangladesh, the prime minister said steps have been taken to check this. The government has decided to put up barbed wire fence along the border besides increasing the number of checkposts and strengthening the border security force.

Mrs Gandhi said violence will not solve any problem. She urged the people of Assam and other northeastern states to fully cooperate with the government and help in restoring normalcy. Justifying the formation of states on linguistic basis, the prime minister said this will help in preserving our languages and culture. The country will be strong only when we remain united. She also stressed the need for giving a fair deal to women.

Referring to the international situation, Mrs Gandhi said the condition of small countries in the present day world is pitiable. In the present age of science and technology many countries are fast advancing and India cannot afford to lag behind in any field.

The chief minister of Assam, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia, said a new awareness was born in the state and life started throbbing in the same way as before. Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated the

directorate of welfare of tea garden tribes, newly created by the state government.

The prime minister since left Gauhati for New Delhi. She was seen off at the airport by the governor, Mr Prakash Mehrotra; chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia; and his Cabinet colleagues.

Punjab Governor Says Situation Improved

BK110709 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr B.D. Pande, has said that the law and order situation in the state has improved since the promulgation of president's rule. The governor and his aides have been touring various parts of Punjab. Mr Pande told a meeting of district officers at Gurdaspur that life in the state is by and large normal. One of the governor's advisers, Mr S.S. Siddhu, told newsmen in Patiala that steps taken by the administration gainst the extremists have yielded satisfactory results.

Shooting of Punjab Congress-I Leader Reported

BK111602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] In Punjab, a Congress-In leader, Mr Surjan Singh, of village Nagoki of Amritsar District was shot dead by some unidentified persons this morning. The assailants escaped in a car. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, vigorous efforts are on to apprehend the culprits. The police suspect the assailants to be extremists.

President Visits Chandigarh, Urges National Unity

BK121614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] President Giani Zail Singh has appealed to the people and political parties to sort out issues on the negotiating table instead of fighting among themselves. He said no disputes or problems can ever be settled through violence and the solution lay only in negotiations. The president was disbursing loans to the handicapped persons under the 20-point program at a function organized by the Punjab and Sind Bank in Chandigarh this evening.

Giani Zail Singh warned the people that some foreign powers are trying to create a wedge among them with their nefarious designs, but it will never succeed, he said. Such powers are jealous of the tremendous progress we have made since independence. He said many brave people laid down their lives for the freedom of the country and now it is our duty to safeguard the unity and integrity of our country as well as its democratic way of life. History will not forgive us if we fight among ourselves on negotiable issues while our nation is giving a message of peace and unity to the whole world, he added.

Appeals for Religious Tolerance

BK130914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has emphasized the need for promoting tolerance and respect for all religions and languages as well as different cultures for strengthening national integration. He was delivering the keynote address at a symposium of national integration in Chandigarh this morning. He said those who try to spread hatred between man and man are the enemies of the country. He compared the different sections of society with the sons of the same mother. Giani Zail Singh pointed out that the founders of all religions have preached love and tolerance and none of them propagated hatred and violence. He regretted that some so-called religious leaders are interpreting the scriptures wrongly to suit them. He urged responsible religious leaders to openly denounce such activities. The president said India achieved political independence after great sacrifices and now is the need to further strengthen it by keeping all Indians together.

Returns to Delhi

BK131605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpts] President Giani Zail Singh emphasized the need for promoting tolerance and respect for all religions, languages, and different cultures for strengthening the national integration. He was delivering the keynote address at a symposium on national integration in Chandigarh this morning. Later in the evening, the president laid the foundation stone of the 1-crore-rupee International Nehru Center in Chandigarh. Paying glowing tributes to Pandit Nehru, the president described him as the greatest democrat of the world who truly represented the sentiments of the people. The president has since returned to New Delhi.

Kashmir Congress-I Officials Allege Torture

BK131354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir [J and K] Pradesh [state] Congress-I has alleged that the state police are torturing their party workers and extorting statements from them. In a statement in Srinagar today, the party chief, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, said the statements are being taperecorded under duress from party workers who are arrested. He said this was a part of what he called the campaign let loose by the ruling National Conference.

The J and K chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has denied the allegation that extremists from Punjab are being trained in the state. He said such allegations are being made to tarnish the image of the state government. Dr Farooq Abdullah said that the Congress-I leaders are making allegations to create an atmosphere of uncertainty in the state.

Rajiv Gandhi Comments on Kashmir, Punjab, Elections
BK111629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is not normal and the state government has failed on all fronts. Addressing a news conference in Srinagar today, he said the performance of the state government is not satisfactory in maintaining law and order.

On Punjab, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the moderates have not been able to take a strong position.

Answering a question on the possibility of early elections, Mr Gandhi said his party is not in favor of it.

Violent Clashes Erupt in Sind 12 November

OW121922 Hong Kong AFP in English 1834 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 12 (AFP) — Violent clashes erupted again today in Sind Province between police and anti-government demonstrators after three weeks of relative calm in the area, well-informed sources said.

Police used teargas and truncheons to disperse at least three demonstrations of about 1,000 people in the province, organised by the opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) as part of its three-month-old civil disobedience campaign.

In Karachi, the main town in Sind, a large number of students were arrested after clashing with police, while in Hyderabad some 800 political prisoners attacked warders and refused to return to their cells until police were called in to quell the disturbance, reliable sources said.

The prison riot, the second in a week in Sind, coincided with the announcement that half a dozen opposition leaders arrested three months ago at the beginning of the opposition campaign would be held without trial for another 90 days.

These included Khwaja Khairuddin, president of the Muslim League, Ghulam Mustapga Patoi, leader of the Pakistan People's Party in Sind, and Meiraj Mohammed Khan, leader of the National Liberation Front.

The MRD campaign, calling for the immediate resignation of Mohammad Ziaul Haq's six-year-old military regime and the holding of free elections, has been most successful in Sind, and has not so far achieved the widespread support throughout Pakistan that the organisers had hoped.

However, today's reappearance of violence in Sind was echoed elsewhere, mainly by the legal community.

In Lahore, capital of Punjab Province, police sealed off the centre of the town for four hours to prevent two MRD demonstrations organised by lawyers from going ahead, and broke legal tradition by entering the precincts of the high court to arrest three MRD leaders.

Similar incidents were seen in other towns, where police surrounded court buildings while lawyers held protest meetings. In (?Brghualand) reliable sources said several lawyers had been arrested.

The government news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN broke three weeks of silence on the MRD to report that the day of protest had "failed miserably."

But the government's failure to crush MRD completely continues to prevent General Ziaul Haq beginning the "constructive" dialogue he has said he wants to hold with "patriotic" politicians ready for elections he plans for 1985.

Delhi Notes Arrests

BK130340 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] In Pakistan, police used tear gas and batons yesterday to disperse antimartial law demonstrators in Sind Province. Several opposition politicians and lawyers are reported to have been arrested. The arrests were made during rallies held by agitators to pay homage to those killed during the 13-week-old campaign against the military rule. REUTER, quoting opposition sources, says that police opened fire at an antigovernment rally in Sind Province, injuring five people.

At Karachi, a meeting of lawyers demanded an end to martial law and the holding of elections under the 1973 Constitution. In Hyderabad's central jail in Sind, police used tear gas to drive prisoners back to their cells. Tear gas was also used to disperse students of an engineering college in Karachi who were raising antimartial law slogans.

Majlis-i-Shoora Debates Internal Situation

MRD 'Fizzled Out'

BK101111 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] The Majlis-i-Shoora today began discussion on the internal situation of the country. Initiating the debate, the federal interior minister, Mr Mahmud A. Haroon, said that the movement launched by the self-styled Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD] had fizzled out because the people had seen through their game and rejected politics of agitation and violence in the country. Those who had launched the movement only wanted to create chaos and anarchy in the country. Their one objective was to sabotage the process of elections which President Mohammad Ziaul Haq had set in motion for the purpose of peaceful transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people.

The interior minister observed that massive participation of the people in the local bodies election had demonstrated that they approved the president's political program for a peaceful transition to civilian rule. He said the situation in Sind had tremendously improved and the people of that province had shown that they were no less patriotic than any other citizen of this country. He said the present government did not believe in committing excesses against its own people and its record of last 6 years amply proved that.

The interior minister congratulated the vast majority of the students who kept off the streets. He said due to special circumstances and conditions prevailing in the Northwest Frontier Province the provincial government banned the students union there, but the government had no intention to extend this to other parts of the country. He also complimented labor for keeping aloof from the so-called movement of MRD. He said there was complete industrial peace in the country today and the production was rising.

Giving background of the so-called movement, he said that it was launched on the pretext that it would be a peaceful movement, but its results are before the nation — 61 persons died during the movement. Of them, 20 percent were members of the security forces as they were fired upon without provocation; 200 persons were injured and 25 percent of them were members of the security forces. This is the highest percentage in the history of the country suffered by the law enforcing agencies. Total number of arrests from the date of beginning of the so-called movement till today is 4,691. Of them, 2,121 people have been released.

Seventeen members took part in the debate. They said the patriotic people would not allow anybody to weaken the country. They urged the government to take severe action against anti-state and anti-Islamic elements. Some of the members demanded that those people who are giving statements against the country from a foreign land, should be deprived of the Pakistan citizenship. They said peace and harmony was essential for successful implementation of the political program announced by the president.

Earlier, speaking on an adjournment motion sought to be moved by (Hafiz Mohammad Takki), the minister of state for food and agriculture, Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, said that good quality wheat seed was being provided to the farmers by the provincial government through various sales depots. After the statement of the minister the mover did not press the motion.

Further Report

BK101624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Excerpts] The Federal Advisory Council today began discussion on the internal situation in the country. Initiating the debate, Federal Interior Minister Mahmud A. Haroon said the so-called movement launched by the self-styled Movement for Restoration of Democracy [MRD] had fizzled out because the people had seen through their game and rejected the politics of agitation and violence.

Mahmud A. Haroon said the so-called MRD had been fully exposed and it was faced with difficulties in continuing the agitation and now it was trying to provoke lawyers, doctors, students, and other such elements to protest. The so-called movement did not even refrain from getting the support of dacoits and attacked jails to free criminals. The government began a search operation in two towns in Nawabshah and near Larkana and apprehended a large number of criminals who were freed from jails and others who were absconding and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

The interior minister referred to various incidents of violence in Sind. He said Murtaza Bhutto in a statement in Vienna had claimed responsibility for these incidents and a leader of the defunct Pakistan People's Party had even requested intervention by the Indian prime minister. The interior minister said bombs exploded in Lahore and these people still maintained that the so-called movement is peaceful and had no links with violence. He referred to a law adopted by the defunct Pakistan People's Party under which political parties were to submit their accounts to the government and provide information on their monetary resources. However, this party refused to register itself because it could not provide these details. This party believes that if the elections are held on a party basis then it will not be able to be [word indistinct]. It also believes that it cannot impose its decisions on this country's voters in the same way as it did in the 1977 elections. It, however, has come to the conclusion that even if the elections are held on a party basis or nonparty basis it will not be able to fulfill its objectives and that is why it tried to vitiate the atmosphere so that elections cannot be held and it can say that the government was not sincere in this matter.

The interior minister also referred to the unwarranted statements by the Indian prime minister and foreign minister in which they openly supported the protesters and said that India cannot remain unconcerned about events in Pakistan.

Criticism of Indian Remarks

BK120826 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The Federal Advisory Council resumed its debate on the country's internal situation for the 2d day today. The latest report says the debate is continuing.

Earlier, the federal minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Syed Sarifuddin Pirzada, informed the Federal Advisory Council that India has no right to say anything about the northern areas. He also said the Indian leaders' statements about these areas are unjustified and have no legal bearing at all.

Speaking in reply to two similar adjournment motions, he said the Pakistani Government has not received a protest note from India over the visit of the heads of the foreign diplomatic missions to the northern areas. The motions, which Hafiz Mohammad Taqi and Mumtaz Ahmad Tarar wanted to put forward, were not pressed after the statement of the federal minister.

12 November Session

BK121128 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The Majlis-i-Shoora today continued its debate on the internal situation of the country. Taking part in the debate, the federal minister for labor and manpower, Mr Ghulam Dastgir Khan, said the government will deal sternly with those elements who try to undermine the security of the country. He said there was no justification for any movement after the presentation of the political program by the president and his offer to welcome constructive proposals in this regard.

The minister pointed out that the so-called Movement for the Restoration of Democracy [MRD], dominated by the defunct Pakistan People's Party [PPP], without even considering the political program resorted to lawlessness and disruptive activities. He said the defunct PPP in the garb of the movement, in fact, wanted to achieve its own nefarious designs.

Taking part in the debate, the railways minister, Nawabzada Abdul Ghafoor Khan Hoti, said that the movement by the so-called MRD, preplanned and preconceived by its leaders, misjudged and underestimated the prudence of Islam-loving people of Pakistan. He declared that the people of Pakistan stand united like a rock to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and in dealing with any adventurists who try to cast an evil eye on Pakistan.

Fifteen members took part in the debate on the country's internal situation today. The house will meet again tomorrow morning.

Conclusion of Debate

BK131103 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Excerpt] The Majlis-i-Shoora was prorogued today with the conclusion of the 3-day debate on the country's internal situation. Winding up the debate, the minister for interior, Mr Mahmud A. Haroon, said that the government will deal sternly with terrorists who try to destroy the fabric of the country and want to bring instability. The present government is committed to enforce Nizam-i-Islam [Islamic system] in the country, and this process will go ahead unhindered.

Referring to the various points raised by the members during the course of the debate, the interior minister said that the situation in Sind was better and under control. He said the government was vigilant, but at the same time it wants to maintain the supremacy of law and human values. It wants to behave with its own people so that they could themselves see the difference of treatment meted out to them by the previous government which had no regard to human values whatsoever.

Mr Mahmud A. Haroon said it was the so-called Movement for Restoration of Democracy and its leaders (?who were) fully exposed before the people. Their nefarious designs could be well imagined by them, and this was evident from the [word indistinct] failure of the call of observing the so-called Solidarity Week by the MRD. The minister declared that the government was sincere in the implementation of the political program announced by the president under which elections would be held and power transferred to the elected representatives of the people by March 1985.

'Observers' Express Surprise at Gandhi Remarks

BK111649 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Text] Observers in the federal capital have expressed surprise over the latest remarks of Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, alluding to a threat of war to her country from Pakistan. Commenting on the remarks, the observers said that ever since Mrs Indira Gandhi came to power for the second term, Pakistan had neither uttered a word — directly or indirectly — about waging war with India nor has it taken any steps — overtly or covertly — which could pose a threat to the borders or security of India.

Pakistan, during the past 2 years, the observers noted, had initiated the process of normalization of Pakistan-India relations with all earnest and sincerity to allay any Indian fear that Pakistan posed a threat to its solidarity or integrity. The observers recalled that only Pakistan has proposed a no-war pact with India. Although in Pakistan's considered opinion, such a pact could have allayed all Indian fears and suspicions, it did not mind when India offered a counterproposal for a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation. Pakistan did not even object to merging the two proposals into one on the basis of sovereignty, equality, and respect for each other's territorial integrity.

Pakistan, according to the observers, accepted the Indian Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's proposal for establishment of a joint commission in order to step up the process of normalization of relations. Pakistan's keen desire in this regard became further evident when President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq stopped in New Delhi on a Southeast Asian visit and held talks with Mrs Indira Gandhi there.

The observers said Pakistan has also made every possible effort to allay Indian fears about foreign military bases on its soil and its nuclear capability. Pakistan has categorically stated on many occasions that it neither intends to manufacture atomic bombs nor will it allow the establishment of military bases on its soil, nor will it call in any foreign forces.

The observers failed to understand why the Indian prime minister chose to say that Indian security is threatened from across the border despite Pakistan's latest efforts for peace vis-a-vis India. The observers said they thought the Indian prime minister was either a victim of imaginary fear or she wants to distract Indian public opinion from the internal troubles which are not subsiding despite strong measures taken by the Indira Government. The observers also expressed the view that now that elections are approaching, Mrs Indira Gandhi thinks that the easiest way to launch an election campaign is to talk of threat from the neighborhood. The observers noted that this is not the first time Mrs Indira Gandhi has suffered from war phobia: in the past she talked of war in order to control internal disturbances or to win elections. However, Pakistan's record stands as proof to the fact that whenever India talked about war, Pakistan talked of peace and friendship.

Yaqub Khan on UNGA's Afghanistan Debate

BK101115 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Pakistan's endeavor in the coming debate of the UN General Assembly on Afghanistan is to introduce a draft resolution under most favorable circumstances. This was stated by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, while talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport this morning before leaving for New York. He said a wide support in the General Assembly on the Afghanistan issue would reflect the opinion of the international community on its moral aspect. He said the draft resolution would be much on the same lines as that of last year. Pakistan would try to get a wide range of cosponsors on the nonaligned and other like-minded countries to introduce the resolution.

SRI LANKA

'Certain' Diplomats Banned From Leaving Colombo

BK131102 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Personnel of certain foreign diplomatic missions based in Sri Lanka have been banned from leaving the city of Colombo without prior permission from the Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation this morning that relaxation of this procedure could be considered only if such governments also relax the restrictions on Sri Lankan diplomats in their countries.

'Major Breakthrough' Emerges From Gandhi Envoy Talks

BK101613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi's special envoy Mr G. Parthasarathy is reported to have worked out a broad framework for a political settlement within the united Sri Lanka to resolve the Tamil minority issue. According to agency reports, the major breakthrough emerged today under India's good offices after Mr Parthasarathy had several rounds of talks with Sri Lankan leaders during his 4-day stay there.

Before leaving Colombo for Madras this evening, Mr Parthasarathy affirmed that the positive ideas include tentative proposals to provide greater power to various regions within the framework of united Sri Lanka. The proposals essentially centered on the creation of regional councils for appropriate power.

Mr Parthasarathy indicated that he would discuss the proposals with the Tamil United Liberation Front leaders in New Delhi next week and would communicate their response later to President Jayewardene to finalize the formula before the Sri Lankan president visits New Delhi for the Commonwealth meet.

In a separate statement, President Jayewardene said that the package of proposals worked out include the merger of the district development council within a province after acceptance of the council's members and a referendum in the district. The administration of Trincomalee Port will come under the center.

The statement also said that the idea of a separate state should be given up.

Parthasarathey Departs 10 November

BK101309 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi's special envoy, Mr. G. Parthasarathy, today wound up his 5-day visit to Sri Lanka and left for Madras after a call on President Jayewardene in Colombo.

PTI reports from Colombo that the meeting took place amid reported moves for major constitutional reforms to solve the Tamil minority problems there. Reports as had appeared in the Sri Lankan press this morning said that India's good offices had proved fruitful and President Jayewardene might eventually hold a referendum to settle the issue.

During his stay there Mr Parthasarathy also met a number of Sri Lankan leaders to discuss the issue. The talks will be followed up in New Delhi when Mr Jayewardene meets Mrs Gandhi during his visit to New Delhi to attend the Commonwealth heads of government.

Khamene'i: If War Reaches Gulf, Oil Will Be Stopped
LD102148 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday evening ruled out possibility of an attack by the United States on the Islamic Republic of Iran and warned that if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, the oil flow will be stopped from this region to the rest of the world.

Addressing a press conference attended by foreign media, the president said, "It is very unlikely that the United States will throw stones at a (?glass house) which she had built in the Persian Gulf region."

Commenting on the closure of the Straits of Hormuz he announced, "We possess all the possibilities required to fullfil that which we have promised."

"But," he stressed "we have also the required self-restraint to exercise prior to embarking on any action."

The president said that as long as the U.S. remained as a colonialist, there was not any relationship possible between Iran and the U.S.

Referring to the various activities of a number of countries and international organisations trying to (?put) an end to the Iraqi imposed war, the president rejected any alleged measures in this respect defining them as "mere lies."

As an example he said the French Government claimed that it wanted to establish peace in the region, but supplied Iraq with 40 percent of its arms and other [word indistinct].

President Khamene'i also referred to the Uited Nations and its Security Council which remained silent vis-a-vis the overall aggression of 10 Iraqi divisions against Iranian cities and occupation of a great part of border areas.

Still, the president stressed, this organisation continued its [word indistinct] silence towards Iraqi missile attacks against Iranian cities and massacre of the people.

During the 37 months of the Iraqi imposed war, more than 50 times, the city of Dezful alone was the target of Iraqi missile attacks martyring and wounding hundreds of civilians.

The Iraqi air strike in the city of Nahavand, Hamadan Province, claimed lives of 15 people and wounded over 300 others. While the city of Behbehan, in [name indistinct] province was hit twice by Iraqi missiles martyring 128 civilians and injuring over 500.

Masjed Soleyman was attacked three times by Iraqi forces martyring 113 and injuring over 330 civilians, and the city of Andimeshk was subjected four times to Iraqi missile attacks which left 94 martyrs and about 700 injured.

In reply to a question concerning ways of ending the Iraqi imposed war, he said that if Saddam was deposed peace would become closer. However if he stayed, there would be two options left for Iran, one, fulfillment [of] the three conditions set forth by Iran for ending the war, the other, continuing the war until materialisation of the Iranian rights.

In reply to another question alleging that Iran needed war to maintain its unity, the president said, "We would live much better under conditions of peace than in any other time, we would reconstruct and would be able to export our revolution in such circumstance, more successfully. He also stressed that the war has been imposed on Iran and Iran did not wish it to continue for a single day. However, this cannot mean that Iran would accept an ignominous peace, he told reporters.

When asked whether Iran like Iraq received military aid from other countries and if it did, from which countries? he said that Iran did not receive any military aid from any country, adding that it did not need any. "We are independent and we fight by relying on the will of our own people. Of course we meet our needs for armament, by manufacturing them inside the country, through seizing from the enemy, repairing or purchasing them from those countries, relation [word indistinct] which does not contradict our foreign policy," he said. When asked to specify those countries who supply Iran with arms, he replied "All countries which have trade ties with Iran."

Replying to a question on effects of the Iraqi imposed war on volume of oil exports, President Khamene'i said that it has had no effect on oil exports, he added that Iran exported as much oil as it needed and in compliance with the quotas of OPEC.

Answering a question raised by a Turkish reporter on whether the Iranian thrust in northern Iraq would endanger Iraqi oil pipeline which passes through Turkey thus jeopardizing Turkish interests as well, he said that Iran respected the interests of its brethren country, Turkey, and would not harm her interests.

When asked to comment on situation in the Kordestan Province of Iran, he said that it was now better than ever and the recent offensive had cut the supply routes vital for the counterrevolutionary elements of Kordestan. He added that in future we would have no problem in that region.

As for the forthcoming Majlis elections, the president said that in Islamic Republic of Iran all parties were free to participate in the election.

To the question posed by a reporter of the Swedish television as to the greatest accomplishment of the Islamic revolution, the president replied that significant strides towards real independence and imparting dignity to the nation were the greatest achievements of the revolution.

Questioned on whether Iran still insisted upon carrying to completion the construction work on the petrochemical complex at Imam Khomeyni port, in the face of the recent Iraqi threats that it would attack the complex, the president said that we shall complete this project and many others as well, and the war will not [word indistinct] in any way the process of completion whether on this or the other projects."

Answering the reporter (?of) *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, who inquired about the stance of the Islamic Republic towards the

Afghan Mujahidin, the president stressed that the position of the Islamic Republic in this respect arose from "shared feelings, common beliefs, and sympathetic attitude towards a people who struggled to build up their future."

Further Report

GF102030 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] 'Ali Khamene'i, president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, ruled out the possibility of direct U.S. military interference in the Persian Gulf. The outbreak of a war in this region would halt the flow of oil in the world.

In a press and radio conference last night with foreign correspondents who came to Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the president said: The Persian Gulf belongs to the countries located around this strategic area and no foreign power has the right to interfere in this region's affairs. We are ready to confront any possible assault or invasion.

About reconciliation with Iraq, which international organizations and circles are trying to impose, President 'Ali Khamene'i said: There are some among these organizations who talk about reconciliation and peace but work to escalate the war. The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: Despite all its claims for peace in the region, the French Government allocates 40 percent of its arms products to the ruling regime in Iraq. At the beginning of the war, the international organizations kept quiet about the invasion in which 10 Iraqi military divisions participated, shelled towns in Islamic Iran, and occupied large areas of Iran.

Brother Khamene'i affirmed that the protectors of Saddam who provide him financial and military aid are the only reasons for the continuation of the war which is imposed by the ruling regime in Iraq against the Islamic Revolution. He said: We do not want to prolong the war. The war was imposed on us, but the Muslim Iranian people are not ready to accept an imposed reconciliation.

Referring to an American reporter's question on whether Iran is ready to establish relations with the United States, the president said: There is no hope of establishing political relations with the United States in the future as long as it remains a superpower.

Responding to a Japanese reporter's question, the president affirmed Iran's intention to continue the petrochemicals project in Imam Khomeyni Port in the south as well as the other projects, despite the Iraqi regime's threats. The war will not have any effect on the process of implementing these projects.

Referring to the military situation in Kordestan, in Iran, Brother Khamene'i affirmed that the Islamic Republic forces control the situation more than ever and the Muslim residents of the region welcome all the measures taken by the Islamic Republic Government to confront the enemies of the revolution. He said the Val Fajr-IV operations blocked the roads which the enemies of the revolution used from Kordestan — where they were stationed — to the Iraqi borders; the operations were successful. He said in the future there will be no Kordestan issue.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Defense Council Session Topics

LD130037 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Interview by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Khomeyni's representative on Supreme Defense Council, to unidentified correspondent following 12 November council meeting in Tehran — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani: The Supreme Defense Council met tonight. Please tell us what topics were raised in the meeting and what issues were decided?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A major part of the meeting was devoted to reviewing the outcome of the Val-Fajr IV operation and future tasks on the fronts. Other topics included purchases and the general requirements of the battlefronts, work which ought to be done behind the battlefronts, and similar issues. As for the Val-Fajr, a report was presented on the land assault by the Revolution Guards Corps; it was a good report. The territory captured — more than 700 km [as heard] — includes some important heights. This is in addition to the territory belonging to us which we have already liberated.

The captured territories are economically important; there are considerable mineral resources there. There are towns, hamlets,and villages in these territories; control of some of these places has been removed from Iraq's hands. Some are so vulnerable that they can no longer enjoy an ordinary state. [as heard] The most important outcome for us, however, has been to secure Kordestan. We were worried about Kordestan; the Kurds were facing hardships, for both the Iraqis and the counterrevolutionaries, who were in the service of the Iraqis, dominated them. Actually, the western part of Kordestan had no proper security over the past 4 or 5 years, especially during the 3 years of this war.

I cannot go into any detail at this juncture. All in all, the northern part of Iraq has become very vulnerable. Now, more than ever before, the only source for Iraq to secure foreign currency has become vulnerable.

[Question] Could you please tell us the reaction of foreign media to these victories?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Obviously, it reported them to some extent; this could not be avoided. However, the foreign media tried to raise some peripheral issues and quote Iraq's false communiques, intending thereby to provide some encouragement for the supporters of Iraq who are money-making types [words indistinct] Generally speaking, international propaganda was misleading.

[Question] : During the past few days, the Iraqi regime threatened that it would attack Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni and

Khark Island. If it fulfills its threat, what practical step would the Islamic Republic take to counter it?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] They attacked these places in the past; they repeatedly attacked Khark, Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, our ships, oil platforms. Iraq has constantly attacked those places, but not effectively, only causing annoyance. As for the future, the situation might continue as before and as it is at present. In any case, the enemy would attack and we would defend; we would, in return, attack. Of course, we are careful not to involve the Persian Gulf because there is the question of the environment; our neighbors would suffer a loss. We will not let the war extend that far. We simply defend. Of course, if they manage to accomplish something with the equipment that they claim to have; if the attack led to us being deprived of our oil resources, or cuts down our oil, which is important to us, in that case, we will do as we have said. We will close the Strait of Hormuz if we are unable to use the sea, if we cannot export our oil. They say all this to make us respond, so they can interpret our comments in various ways in the world and go on a propaganda campaign. We have not much to say; we say these words: For as long as the Persian Gulf is usable to us, we will maintain its security; if ever the Gulf is unusable to us, it will be unusable to others.

IRNA Account

LD131156 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA — The Supreme Defense Council (SDC), presided over by President 'Ali Khamene'i Saturday night reviewed the outcome of Val Fajr-4 operations, started Oct. 19, 1983.

Speaking after the session, Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the liberation of more than 700 sq.kms of land, including strategic heights, heavy life losses on enemy including 18,000 dead or injured, and seizure of huge amount of ammunitions as the results achieved during the oeprations.

Moreover, he noted, the Val Fajr-4 operations maintained security in the (western province of) Kordestan and cut off all connections between counterrevolutionaries and the Iraqi enemy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative in the SDC, criticized the stance of Muslim-populated countries vis-a-vis Iran and the question of the Iraqis, still the Islamic republic sought to see all Muslims united.

He said that the Islamic Republic was convinced that these Muslim states should not be harmed in the course of the war, stressing that most of these countries were following directives of others rather than making their own decisions.

On recent developments in Lebanon, Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented that Iran, as an Islamic country with an Islamic revolution, could not be indifferent towards the issue of Palestine and presence of the usurper Zionist regime in the region.

He urged Muslims to become united on this issue, noting that as long as a state of tension was governing over the area, the Americans would not evacuate there.

Referring to the security of the Persian Gulf, the Majlis speaker reiterated that Iran would support the security of this waterway as long as it was available for her. Otherwise, he stressed, it would not be used by others as well.

Commenting on recent U.N. security council resolution on the maintenance of security of the Persian Gulf, the Majlis speaker said that although Iran had officially rejected the resolution, but in practice it was following most of its parts. [sentence as received] For instance, he added, Iran was following those parts of the resolution which barred attacks on ships, oil wells, other sources of marine [as received] in the Persian Gulf, and on civilian areas.

He emphasised that from the very beginning of the Iraqi imposed war (Sept. 22, 1980), the Islamic Republic had refrained from targeting residential quarters and would follow the same policy since it was a supporter of the people.

Therefore, the Majlis speaker said, the Security Council was relieved as far as the above mentioned issues were concerned but as long as it intended to force the Islamic Republic to surrender to blackmail, Iran would reject it.

Majlis Deputy Speaker Denies Beirut Blast Involvement

LD102147 Tehran IRNA in English 1924 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Theran, nov 10, IRNA — Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha, vice-speaker of Majlis, cateogrically denied any involvement by Iran in the blast at the headquarters of the U.S. intervention forces in Beirut, and stressed that the Lebanese Muslims should continue their struggle against the U.S. and French intervention forces and also the Zionist regime.

Talking to a group of foreign reporters at the Majlis here today, Kho'iniha added that it was the legal right of the Lebanese to destroy the U.S. and the French intervention forces. The oppressed people of Lebanon, he said, knew better how to materialize their rights, despite the opposition of the Lebanese Government.

Commenting on the internal strife of the Palestine Liberation forces, he said that it was due to a deviation of the organisation from the true Islamic faith. As regards the Zionist regime, he said, Iran had the readiness to respond to the aggression of the Zionist regime anytime.

On Islamic Republic's stance vis-a-vis Nicaragua, Kho'iniha said Iran had already announced its position, declaring its full support for the revolution of Nicaragua and all those people who were victims of the aggression of the superpowers.

Kho'iniha, commenting on the retaliatory measures of Iran in case the U.S. and the British choose to intervene in the issue of the Hormuz Straits, said that if Iranian interests were endangered there, then the strait would be closed down and that Iran was capable to do so. The intervention of alien forces in the region would not change any situation, but only it would aggravate the situation in the region.

Kho'iniha denied any rumors about objections by some Majlis deputies as to the desirability of continuation of war.

He (?affirmed) that the Majlis in its future elections would increase the number of women representatives, as no difference was felt between a male and a female representative.

Commenting on the issue of Lebanon and its link with the Iran-Iraq war, he said that at the time when the Iraqis launched their aggression the Lebanese people showed their soldiarity with Iran. He added that the French, the U.S. and the Zionist regimes should not get themselves involved in the region since it was not in the interest of the region.

Further, the vice-speaker of the Majlis completely denied allegations that the Islamic Republic Government had allocated a secret budget to carry out operations in Asian and Southeastern countries like the Philippines. He concluded by saying that the Islamic Republic did not carry out any secret operations, and what it did was strictly based on the country's constitution.

Khomeyni Receives Majlis Speaker, Joint Staff Chief

LD121221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Hashemi-Rafsanjani was received in audience this morning by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He had talks with the imam of the Islamic nation.

Brigadier General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was also received in audience this morning by Imam khomeyni, great leader of the Islamic Revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to whom he gave a report on the latest developments and events on the battlefields of good against evil.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,538

LD101804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,538 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, Islam's selfless heroes on the Val-Fajr IV operational fronts continued to strengthen and consolidate their defensive positions. Simultaneously with their defensive measures, they either curbed or delayed the Iraqi forces' movements and supply operations through artillery and heavy weapons fire on enemy positions, fortifications, and supply axes. They frustrated enemy patrol operations and inflicted losses and casualties on enemy forces by dispatching patrol groups.

On the Piranshahr, Hajj 'Umran, and Sar Dasht operational fronts, sporadic and periodic fire continued. As a result of fire opened by Islam's combatants, the Iraqi forces' engineering activities and movements were crushed; some of their positions, weapons emplacements, and troop trenches were destroyed and a number of their servicemen were either killed or wounded.

During the past 2 days, during an engagement, some 20 Saddamist mercenaries were wounded and a number of others were killed.

On the border fronts in Bakhtaran, our forces also defended their defensive positions. While controlling operational and engineering activities by the Iraqi forces and by opening heavy artillery fire and dispatching patrol groups into the defensive areas of the Saddamist forces, they stopped movements by enemy motorized columns and forced its patrol units to flee. The losses suffered by the Saddamist mercenaries on these fronts were: the destruction of one tank, eight light and heavy vehicles, and one artillery piece and the annihilation of a number of enemy servicemen.

On Abadan's and Khorramshahr's southern fronts, an exchange of fire continued between our forces and the Saddamist mercenaries. By opening retaliatory fire on enemy positions and fortifications,our forces inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy. After reconnoitering enemy patrol groups in a number of regions, our forces opened fire on them, forcing them to retreat.

The city of Abadan yesterday continued to be subjected to Iraqi heavy weapons fire. Limited damaged was caused in certain parts of the city.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,539

LD111745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,539 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The combatative forces of Islam in the operational region of Val-Fajr IV yesterday pursued their activities by firing heavily on enemy positions and supply routes. A limited counteroffensive launched by the Saddamist forces in this region was crushed by the victorious forces of Islam. Also, their firing on enemy supply routes destroyed four armored personnel carriers and two trucks carrying personnel and ammunition belonging to the Saddamists.

In the operational areas of Piranshahr, Hajj 'Umran, and Sar Dasht exchanges of fire continued and our forces destroyed one enemy tank and damaged several others. On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, our combatants' fire on enemy positions destroyed one excavator, three trucks carrying personnel, three machineguns,and one ammunition dump belonging to the mercenaries. Our forces fired on enemy soldiers who were digging trenches and carrying supplies, stopped enemy activities, and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi forces. In the Sumar region, enemy patrol groups were forced to flee with several casualities as a result of our forces' timely fire.

In the operational regions of Abadan and Khorramshahr, our combat units stationed along the shores of the Arvand Rud opened fire, disrupted enemy vehicle traffic on the Al-Faw-Basra axis, and destroyed three observations posts and trenches and one machinegun belonging to the aggressors.

Yesterday on one of the southern fronts, an enemy listening post was completely destroyed by our forces' fire. Enemy long-range missiles yesterday damaged four residential buildings in Abadan.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,540

LD121744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,540 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on the Piranshahr, Sar Dasht, and Hajj 'Umran operational fronts between our mighty forces and the aggressor mercenaries of Iraq. The victorious combatants of Islam performed defensive operations and brought enemy armored positions and fortifications under fire, crushing parts of their positions, destroying 7 tanks and 2 106-mm guns, and killing or injuring more than 70 Iraqi personnel.

Also, during the past 48 hours, an enemy armored unit in the Baneh sector that was supported by artillery fire pretended to stage an offensive. As a result of our forces' alertness and accurate fire, their movements were crushed, an enemy tank was destroyed, and a number of enemy personnel were killed or wounded.

On the Val-Fajr IV operational fronts, the victorious combatants of Islam continued further strengthening their defensive positions. Along with defensive operations, they brought enemy positions, fortifications, and supply roads under fire. They also blocked an enemy supply road for a certain period, killed or injured about 20 Saddamists, and destroyed an enemy truck carrying ammunition. Also on these fronts, our mighty combatants enjoyed superiority of firepower and held the initiative.

On the southern and western fronts, exchanges of fire continued.

On all fronts, with their defensive fire, by dispatching patrol groups and establishing observation posts, our combatants kept under control all enemy movements and engineering activities, disrupted enemy supply operations, silenced enemy fire, and inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries.

Yesterday, as on other days, Abadan was brought under long-range enemy fire, resulting in damage to residential areas.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,541

LD131808 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Communique No 1,541 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Congratulations to the pious, self-sacrificing servicemen and the followers of the family of chastity and purity for the auspicious anniversary of the birth of the seventh shiny star of velayat and imamate, Imam Musa Kazem, peace be upon him.

During the past 24 hours, exchanges of fire and limited clashes occurred in the Wal-Fajr IV operational theater. Our forces prevented enemy movements in that region. In the Piranshah, (?Hajj 'Umran), Baneh, and Sar Dasht operational sectors, our combatants brought enemy positions under heavy fire, preventing their activities and destroying several mortar launchers and a number of trenches and foxholes.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts, exchanges of fire continued. On those fronts, the mighty combatants of Islam set fire to several enemy trucks carrying personnel, a tank, and an ammunition dump and killed a number of Saddamists.

On the southern fronts yesterday, our artillery units' fire halted enemy engineering activities along the defensive lines [as heard] and enemy reconnaissance activities in the Sharhani and (?Angizeh) were neutralized.

During exchanges of fire on the Arvand Rud banks, the combatants of Islam destroyed an enemy engineering excavation vehicle and a number of trenches and foxholes on the other side of the river.

Yesterday, long-range enemy fire on the residential areas of Abadan caused damage to three houses and two shops. During the past 24 hours, Iranian fighter planes and antiaircraft units promptly repulsed enemy acts of aggression against parts of the operational theater and a number of border towns.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Staff Announces Defense Unit Exercises

LD131230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 83

[Text] In order to inform the citizens of Tehran, the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: At 2030 hours tonight, a number of air defense units of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stationed in Tehran and its suburbs, will be firing into the air for exercise purposes.

AFP: Switzerland Supplies Iran With 6 Aircraft

NC101408 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Bern, Nov 10 (AFP) — Switzerland supplied Iran with six Pilatus PC7 training aircraft last September, the Lausanne Daily *24 HEURES* reported today, quoting latest Swiss customs figures.

The planes, manufactured in Switzerland by a subsidiary of the Oerlikon-Buehrle group, are turbo-propelled two-seaters capable of flying at up to about 400 km (250 miles) an hour.

Although a training aircraft, it can easily be converted into a ground support attack aircraft armed with machine guns, rockets, or bombs weighing up to 250 kilograms.

The finance ministry said it could not confirm the export.

In 1980, Switzerland supplied 52 Pilatus planes to Iraq. About a dozen foreign air forces are equipped with the plane.

Swiss authorities have always maintained that the civilian aircraft is not covered by Swiss (?regulations) governing the export of military equipment.

French Commercial Representation Closed

LD101334 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Iran's reaction to the delivery to Iraq of the five French Super Etendard aircraft — the Iranian Government has just taken several measures designed to lead to the end of France's economic and commercial presence in Iran. The French commercial representation in Tehran is closed from now on.

The ayatollahs' slogan is "Don't buy French anymore." Since France delivered combat planes to Iraq on 8 October, France has become more than ever the medium-sized satan, just behind the great American satan. Retaliation came this morning with the closure of our commercial office in Tehran and the French Archeological Research Institute. But it is still not a total boycott. The ayatollahs are indeed saying: Don't buy French any more, but only insofar as possible. And that is why Paris will continue to trade with Tehran in order to provide spare parts for the 10,000 Iranian Renault-5 cars, Iran Air's Airbuses or machinery for the oil industry. Another example, in the north of the country, is Tabriz where 40 French people are building a thermal power station. Work was continuing there this morning. As for the French banks which provide nearly half the financing for the Iranian oil market in the world, they are not affected for the moment. Links have not been broken then, even if exchanges between our two countries are stagnating at a time when the British, Germans, and Italians are concluding more and more contracts.

There is, of course, anxiety in Paris over this bad atmosphere which makes life even more difficult for the 100 or so of our compatriots who are still living in the country of Ayatollah Khomeyni, but for the time being the irreversible has not occurred.

AFP: France Accused of Perpetrating Jeep Incident

NC101624 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 10 Nov 83

[Text] Beirut, Nov 10 (AFP) — The Iranian Embassy in Beirut today accused members of the French contingent to the four-nation Western force here of trying to carry out a "terrorist operation" against the embassy building.

In a statement, the embassy said the French would be held responsible for anything that befalls the embassy in future.

According to the statement, three jeeps carrying eight French soldiers began encircling the embassy building on the night of November 2. Meanwhile, in what the statement described as a diversionary manoeuvre, French troops stationed behind sandbags directed rocket and automatic weapon fire at the embassy.

This enabled the jeep patrol to leave a jeep loaded with explosives near the embassy building. When the jeep's occupants were safely aboard the other jeeps, stationed 100 yards (metres) away, they fired a rocket at the jeep bomb which, "through the will of all-powerful God," did not explode, the statement said.

Lebanese army sappers defused the bomb and took the jeep away.

The statement said that the jeep had been stolen at a time when a French military spokesman was denying there had been a theft, thereby indirectly admitting the responsibility of the French forces for the "terrorist operation."

The statement continued: "It is not the first nor the last time that France has committed terrorist acts against the Islamic Republic (of Iran)."

Paris, the statement said, "is the refuge of exiles and terrorists who operate there with complete freedom against Iran." It denounced France's "political, military, and material support" for Iraq.

The jeep incident, "which follows continuous and repeated threats by the American administration against Iran," the statement said, was the proof of a coordinated joint Franco-U.S. plot.

French diplomatic and military authorities here have refused to comment directly on the alleged incident, although contrary to the official Lebanese version that the explosive-rigged jeep was "recently stolen" from the French contingent, the French military spokesman says that "all the French vehicles are there."

Other French officials say that as they are not involved they have no need to comment, and they refuse to discuss reports that the jeep was manufactured in 1945 and is a model that has not been used by the French Army for 30 years.

Building Housing Italian Technicians Bombed

AU121733 Rome ANSA in English 1530 GMT 12 Nov 83

[Text] Tehran, November 12 — A high-powered bomb blasted a hole in the outer wall of a building housing a group of some 150

Italian technicians and their families involved in the construction of an electrical power plant at Bandar Abbas, in southeast Iran. Fortunately there were no victims.

The blast blew a hole one-and-a-half meters wide in the wall of the building lodging those "GIE" employees working on the power plant for the new commerical port at Bandar Abbas.

The attack was later claimed by "the Aref Boluki Dynamite Group" which represents "the Iranian partisans of Hormozabad" (the region of Bandar Abbas).

A leaflet left by the group said that similar attacks would continue as long as "the bloody regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni continued to receive arms supplies from abroad with which to oppress the Iranian people".

Last night's bombing was the first attack on a foreign venture in Iran since the revolution.

In its leaflet, the group also threatened the security of foreign diplomats. The threats were similar to those contained in a message recently released by the so-called Iranian National Resistance Committee in exile which warned of "in loco" reprisals against countries that support the Islamic regime.

Italy is among the Western nations having closest economic and trade ties with the Iran of Ayatollah Khomeyni.